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C.I.A. RECRUITING SUPPORTED HERE

Columbia Official Approves
of On-Campus Policy

A Columbia University official asserted yesterday that he saw nothing "ethically wrong" in allowing the Central Intelligence Agency to recruit on campus.

Alexander Clark, the director of Columbia's office of university placements and career planning, made his statement in testimony offered before an advisory committee. The committee began conducting hearings yesterday on the case of 19 students accused of sitting-in outside the office where two C.I.A. recruiters were conducting interviews on Feb. 8.

The findings of the committee, composed of two administrators, two faculty members and two students, will be passed on to Dr. Grayson Kirk, president of the university. He will make final disposition of the matter. The hearings are scheduled to continue today.

Would Permit Recruiting

Asked whether he would permit the C.I.A. to resume its on-campus recruiting, in view of the adverse publicity the organization has received recently, Mr. Clarke replied unhesitatingly "Yes."

Representing the university at the hearings is William K. Jones, a professor of law at Columbia Law School. The chief counsel for the accused students was Carl Rachlin, the legal director of the Scholarship, Education and Defense Fund for Racial Equality, Inc. Neither men are accepting fees for their services.

Format Is Challenged

Mr. Rachlin opened his defense by attacking the basic format of the hearing. After observing that Columbia was the complaining party, he stated that "it's not quite proper for the university to select the hearing officers," suggesting that the school either withdraw its charges or submit the case to outside arbitration.

Mr. Rachlin also questioned the impartiality of one of the panel members, Dr. David B. Truman, the dean of Columbia College, charging that he had "prejudged the right of the C.I.A. to appear on this campus."

The committee rejected the claims that it had no right to conduct hearings, asserting that it had been duly authorized to function by President Kirk. The committee chairman, Curtis T. Berger, also a professor at Columbia Law School, allowed Dean Truman to rule on his own eligibility, and the dean stated that he saw no need to disqualify himself.

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